july 2005 - june 2006

**d.net** annual report

2005-2006 at a
# glance

## 2001...

**July 2005**
The new financial year begins

**August 2005**
Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Mohammad Yunus launches the country's first A-Z of Medical Directory published by D.Net and Health 21

**September 2005**
D.Net opens 1st Pallitathya Kendra at Bagerhat
Workshop on "ICT and Access to Justice"

**October 2005**
D.Net's Pallitathya Help Line bags the Global Gender and ICT Award 2005
D.Net office shifts to Humayun Road

**November 2005**
D.Net successfully organises seminar at the WSIS with multi-stakeholder participation on "Improving Access to Information through ICT: A Missing Dimension in Poverty Alleviation" (Case study Bangladesh)
D.Net is honoured with Global Gender and ICT Award 2005 at the WSIS

**December 2005**
First retreat for developing "Mission 2010" with stakeholders' participation is held in Cox's Bazaar

**January 2006**
D.Net celebrates its 5th Anniversary
D.Net organises first ever "Development and ICT Fair"
D.Net launches its book titled "Pallitathya Help Line: A Precursor to People's Call Centre"
D.Net launches first Bangla Language Livelihood Content "JEEON-IKB"
D.Net launches the computer learning book "Esho Computer Shikhi"

**February 2006**
D.Net opens 12 new computer learning centres with financial collaboration of Volunteers' Association for Bangladesh (VAB), New Jersey, USA
The University Press Limited (UPL) joins D.Net online research portal www.bdresearch.org

**March 2006**
D.Net research team makes exposure visit to India
D.Net opens 4 new computer learning centres with financial collaboration of VAB, New Jersey, USA

**April 2006**
D.Net signs MoU with Bank Asia for establishing three computer learning centres, the first corporate sector engagement in such endeavour

**May 2006**
D.Net organises the first ever digital exhibition on eminent personalities of the country titled "gunijan"
"The Telecentre Times" is launched at Colombo with D.Net in the global editorial board

**June 2006**
D.Net opens 4 new computer learning centres
2 more universities join D.Net's online research pool www.bdresearch.org
D.Net's new Governing Body is formed
The Mission 2010: a strategy paper for the period of 2006-2010 is launched

## 2010...

## vision
A society where information and knowledge play their designated role in facilitating all stakeholders in generation of wealth and its equitable distribution for poverty alleviation.

## mission
To become a premier organisation in Bangladesh and beyond through undertaking research and action programmes in the areas where information and knowledge can contribute to poverty alleviation, economic growth and peace.

# Chairman's Message

I am very glad to learn that D. Net is going to publish its annual report for the fiscal year 2006 in print form along with its web version. D.Net is the first institution in Bangladesh, which focuses on research, both theoretical and applied, on the role of ICT in improving the livelihood of poor and rural people of Bangladesh.

Since 2001 D.Net has always been trying to bring innovative and meaningful changes in its activities. The creativity and devotion of our young talented team is our main strength. By this time, D.Net has started to achieve due recognition for its activities both nationally and internationally. The recognition by the global community through membership of Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) and Gender and ICT Award 2005 indicates that D.Net is moving in the right direction.

I am also proud to say that D.Net's policy of transparency and accountability has been paying dividend in terms of building a sound internal management system. The internal framework of governance, which is published on line along with its financial report, is a manifestation of D.Net's commitment towards transparent internal governance. The attitude towards transparency makes us a bold propagator of strong accountability and good governance for achieving our goal.

We thank all of you for extending cooperation to D.Net and participating in building a knowledge based society, which will be free from poverty and injustice.

**Toufic A. Choudhury, Ph.D.**

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# Building Pallitathya Model

## D.Net's Research on Linkage of ICTs and Poverty has launched for ground test

D.Net's research on harnessing the linkage between ICTs and poverty alleviation has launched for ground test in September 2005. D.Net started working on this issue since 2001. Starting with the research on information need identification for the poor and by the poor in 2003, D.Net launched the functional Pallitathya Kendra (Rural Information Centre - RIC) in September 2005. The objectives of the research are to assess: i) the effectiveness of livelihood information through different ICT channels and ii) the impact on the poor through establishment of Pallitathya kendra itself and iii) the deployment of *mobile ladies* for getting access to expert consultation through mobile phone. The research thrives to address two fundamental questions: one, how ICTs can be a useful tool for improving access to livelihood information and; two, how the interface of ICT and improved access to information address poverty alleviation dimension. The research targets to build a Pallitathya model based on learning from the ground.

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# Building Pallitathya Model

D.Net's Research on Linkage of ICTs and Poverty has launched for ground test

The interim research findings show that D.Net's Pallitathya model produces real results at the grassroots level in improving access to information. Since 2005 through four Pallitathya Kendra located in remote rural areas more than 10,000 villagers received both information and ancillary services, which had three types of poverty alleviation implications: a. in some cases they could save cost of livelihood, b. in some cases they could create opportunities to earn more, c. in other cases they could prevent potential loss of property, life and rights.

The carefully crafted mechanisms through Pallitathya Kendra allowed D.Net's model to reach particularly women and people with various handicaps who seldom go outside their homes. The innovations and critical elements of the intervention are:

**1.** Focus on needs of the poor, rather than focus on the technology through which D.Net identified information needs and other livelihood needs through participatory research.

**2.** Focus on 'no exclusion' policy induced confidence within rural community to think that the RICs for all groups in the rural society. This policy was implemented through two specific design elements: **a.** As a vast share of rural community is illiterate, the concept of "infomediary" [ information intermediary, a human interface between knowledge-base and rural illiterate people] could allow these group to get the benefit of technology in receiving solutions to their livelihood problems; **b.** As women have limited mobility due to social taboo and people with physical handicap can seldom visit the RICs, the concept of 'mobile lady' [ a female information worker with a cell phone connected to the help-desk comprising experts in different livelihood topics. The service is called help line] could allow D.Net's model reach everybody in a village.

**3.** Focus on 'no refusal policy' could enable rural community to rely that whatever problem they have, if they come to the RIC, they will definitely get an advice. This policy was possible to implement thanks to the concept of 'combination of computer based knowledge base' and help line.

# Building Pallitathya Model

## D.Net's Research on Linkage of ICTs and Poverty has launched for ground test

Once a villager calls to the help desk, the reply is guaranteed, either immediately, or after a reasonable time [depending on complexity of problem, experts collect answers and respond through mobile, e-mail, letter, whatever way feasible]

**4.** Focus on demand-driven content in local language, which contains information and knowledge to the livelihood problems of the villagers. This content is branded as 'JEEON-IKB'. With the support of International Development Research Center (IDRC), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Research Initiative, Bangladesh (RIB), D.Net was able to develop significant volume of content, which is used in the RICs. This browser-based IKB (Information and Knowledge Base) is going to be used by a huge number of institutions.

**5.** Combination of core information service and ancillary services, which is although complementary in nature rather conflicting in terms of skills requirement of the infomediary. Such approach allows the RICs to generate revenue.

**6.** Focus on community relationship and inspiration of local institutions. Involvement of the local institutions brought new ideas about sustainability: both financial and social. The research proved that if local institutions brace the concept and the community sees the benefits, they take care of both the financial and the social sustainability.

The pragmatic approach and on-the-ground success inspired a number of institutions, both national and local, to initiate telecentres across the country. D.Net actively works with organisations who want to replicate its model with little necessary twists and an approach to financial sustainability. For example, D.Net's work with KATALYST, a project jointly funded by DFID, SDC, Sida, and CIDA supports a number of telecentres designed for providing information services to the MSMEs. D.Net conducted market research on this concept for KATALYST and recommended for the content-focused approach. Grameen Phone, the largest telco in Bangladesh also replicates D.Net's combination of elements in its CICs [Community Information Centres] since 2006. The CICs are however modelled very much on an income-driven approach. It also replicates Help Line, only for health related issues. More than 30 organisations contacted D.Net to collaborate for establishment of telecentres for improving access to livelihood information. D.Net is now promoting idea of "Mission 2011" in line with Mission 2007 of India to major institutions to initiate establishment of telecentres in rural Bangladesh so that every village has access to community based telecentres on the occasion of 40th anniversary of independence of Bangladesh.

*Launching of Digital Repository of Livelihood Content 'JEEON IKB'*
*Agriculture, Health, Education, Legal and Human Rights, Non Farm Activities, Appropriate Technology, Awareness, Disaster Management, Rural Employment, Thikana.*
*28th January, 2006*

*Launching JEEON Thikana*
*Information on 5,653 service providers from 15 districts*
*28th January, 2006*

*Launching of four Pallitathya Kendra*
*Bagerhat: September 17, 2005; Nilphamari: November 26, 2005; Netrokona: October 16, 2005; Noakhali: October 23, 2005*

*Infomediary training*
*August 28 to September 10, 2005; September 24 to October 03, 2005 and May 23 to June 02, 2006*

*Launching of JEEON CDs for partner institutions*
*SUSHILON, Satkhira is the first organization to purchase JEEON CDs on May, 2006*

*Service recipients from Pallitathya Kendra (Up to December 2006)*
*11,761 [Bagerhat: 3,123; Nilphamari: 3,461; Netrokona: 1,723 and Noakhali: 3,454]*

*Gender distribution of service recipients*
*Male 61 percent and Female 39 percent*

*Income Generation by Pallitathya Kendra*
*BDT 113,415 [Bagerhat: BDT 38,696; Nilphamari: BDT 19,790; Netrokona: BDT 20,292 and Noakhali: BDT 34,637]*

*Award received*
*Global Gender and ICT Awards 2005*

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# Global Gender and ICT Awards 2005
## D.Net's first international recognition

"The Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) salutes shining examples of promoting information and communication technologies for development (ICT4D)," announced Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Executive Director of GKP during the declaration of the Gender and ICT Awards 2005. The ceremony was held at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, capital city of Tunisia on 15 November 2005. Earlier, the certificate was presented at Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) Forum held on October 27-30, 2005 in Bangkok,Thailand. The GICT Awards 2005 (www.genderawards.net) was opened to civil society organisations, community-based groups, networks and social movements in Asia Pacific, with women particularly the girls as target beneficiaries.

The Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP), a global network that support women networking for social change and women's empowerment through the use of ICTs (www.apcwomen.org), was the co-sponsor of this award along with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Department for the International Development (DfID), Microsoft Corporation and GKP. These awards recognise innovative and effective projects for the promotion of women's economic empowerment. Pallitathya Help Line project brought  D.Net the Championship in 2005's Global Gedner and ICT Awards. The uniqueness of this project is the concept of mobile operator ladies deployed in the community to enable women to place agriculture, health, legal right and other livelihood questions to an "expert help desk" via a mobile phone.

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# JEEON-IKB:
## Making ICT relevant to Poor People
### Bangla language livelihood information and knowledge base

*The JEEON-IKB (Information and Knowledge Base) is a content database developed in Bangla language and preserved in CD format. A package of nine CDs JEEON-IKB aims to contribute in improving particularly the rural livelihood through ICTs. The database is kept in CDs so that they can be used in the locations without Internet connectivity. The database has been developed on the basis of cognitive research to raise its acceptability as a source of useful information in the rural context. The JEEON-IKB content in simple non-technical language responds to everyday queries such as what, where, who, how in the areas of agriculture, education, healthcare, non-farm economic activities, apprppriate technology, human rights, awareness and disaster management. The database can be accessed by the illiterate villagers with the aid of the 'infomediaries' (people who can use JEEON-IKB to respond to queries). The crucial information they derive can help them reduce their livelihood costs or improve their income opportunities. The JEEON-IKB is more effective when used with Teletathya - people's call centre (mobile phone based information service). Through this system by calling the specialists at the Teletathya Help-Line peple can get information that they do not find in the CDs .*

"The ever increasing gap between the rich and the poor in past few years has created such a huge depression that a storm is not far away. I believe that ICT can bridge that gap and make scopes for development," said Habibur Rahman, the former Chief Justice and Chief Advisor to the Caretaker Government at the launching evening of JEEON-IKB CDs on January 30, 2006. Presently the CDs contain images and graphics along with the texts. D.Net has started developing animated and audio-visual contents which will be later incorporated in JEEON-IKB database. JEEON-IKB content is also available on the website: www.jeeon.com.

www.dnet-bangladesh.org

## Celebrating Gunijan
## First ever Digital Exhibition of Gunijans (The Eminent)

Eminent personalities (From left: Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, Kamal Lohani, Murtaja Baseer, Abdul Matin, Shamsur Rahman, Binod Bihari Chowdhury) are at the inaugural ceremony of Gunijan's Digital Biography Exhibition.



For the first time in Bangladesh D.Net organised a digital biography exhibition of the eminent personalities. Students, journalists, economists, poets, photographers, social activists and others gathered for the nine-day event titled "Our People Our Inspiration" from May 27 to June 04, 2006. DRIK Gallery was the co-organizer for this event.

The "Gunijan" initiative is for bringing through the Internet the best personalities of our soil who inspire us by their writings, words, scientific and artistic endeavours and other creative pursuits to the new generation. As of June 2006, 28 profiles have been made available online along with a digital picture gallery.

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# Bringing Underprivileged Rural Youth into ICT Learning

## Computer Learning Programme of VAB-D.Net is expanding

Computer Learning Programme (CLP) is developed to promote knowledge about and usage of computer among the underprivileged rural youths in Bangladesh. For this 43 geographical locations were discovered comprised mainly of schools and of some colleges, libraries and community gathering places. Under the programme 2,553 young students were to receive computer training during 2005-2006. From each of these centres two teachers or persons having the basic knowledge about computer volunteered for computer trainer's training. A curriculum named Esho Computer Sikhie developed by D.Net was used for the training. D-Net trained altogether 88 such trainers, among which 15 were women, who going back to their respective centres imparted training to the students.

This programme is sponsored by non-resident Bangladeshis geared through Volunteers' Association for Bangladesh (VAB). Remarkably in 2005, Bank Asia, a commercial bank in Bangladesh sponsored three more centres.

The 5th anniversary programmes concluded with a fund raising dinner for CLP. Various national and international organisations participated in the event in which D.Net emphasised on mobilization of resources in Bangladesh as well as among the NRB community particularly in North America and in Europe.

**CLC** in operation
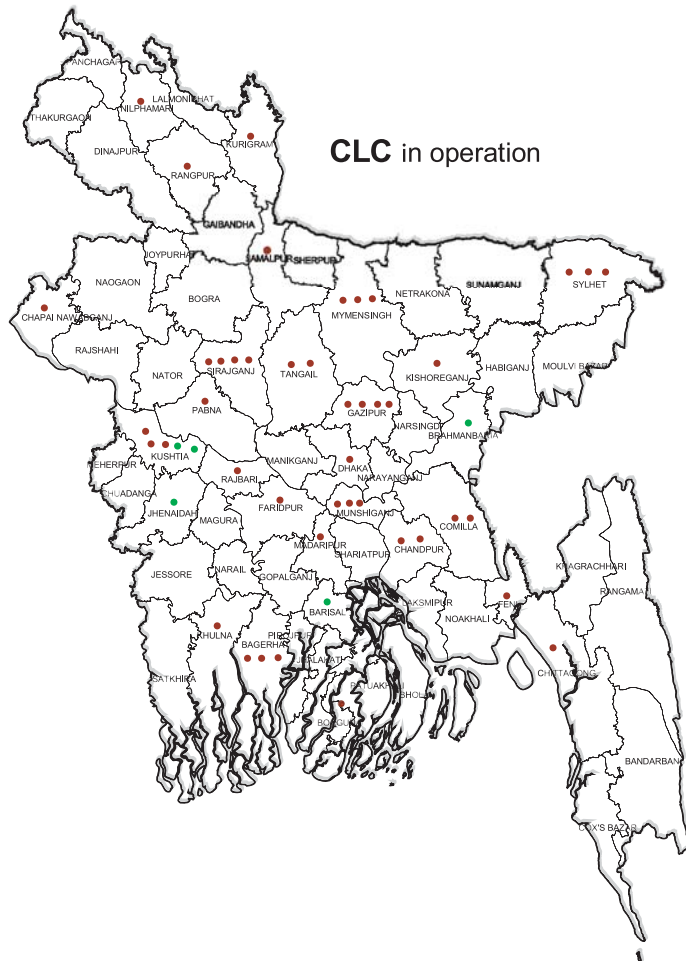
# BDResearch.org
## A new frontier for researchers

BORN is about efficient learning, teaching and, above all, sharing acquired or created knowledge through the convenience of a single website - to facilitate research, policy-making, business-planning or report-writing in Bangladesh context.

• From July 2005 to December 2006 more than 1159 publications were downloaded from 30 countries other than Bangladesh. The major countries are: USA, UK, Canada, Japan, Australia, Germany, Netherlands, China, India, Pakistan, Korea, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia.

• During the period about 1200 users downloaded publications from this website. About 100 prepaid cards were sold and at present 27 cards have been activated.

• The website (www.bdresearch.org) was refurbished with new interface and some new features were added.

• New institutions became members to host their papers regularly are:
1. Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)
2. Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)
3. Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA)
4. Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management(BIBM)
5. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP)
6. Jahangir Nagar University
7. Samaj Rashtra O Orthoniti
8. University Press Limited (UPL)

• Since 2003 BORN has been webcasting the national budget. In 2006 BORN team has live webcasted the national budget and also the comments of the eminent personalities of the country. This year's webcasting was viewed by 6,322 people from 30 countries around the world. The running commentary during webcasting benefited the viewers as they could able to use it for analysis.

**Status up to December, 2006**

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepaid card user | 32 |
| Total No. of card used | 4500 |
| Total paper download | 3079 |
| Total user login to database | 1609 |
| Total Member | 1272 |
| Total Publisher | 95 |
| Total Paper | 1159 |
| NumbTTer of countries from where papers were downloaded | 30 |

www.dnet-bangladesh.org

**BDResearch.org**
Bangladesh Online Research Network

# Mission 2010

## A Road map of D.Net's Next Five Year

During the initial years, D.Net's main focus was ICT for Development. As a research institution, it needs important transition in terms of focusing on general economic and social development. With this view the organisation felt the need for a direction for its in next five-year journey. As a result, a process to develop the strategy for the period between 2006-07 and 2010-11 started in 2005. Through a rigorous brainstorming among the D.Net staff, board members and important ICT4D community leaders the five-year strategy was born to be coined as "Mission 2010". The Mission identifies the following themes for its activities the period of 2006-2010.

Access to Information and Knowledge

Enhancing Business Competitiveness for Economic Growth

Governance and Human Rights

Human Resource Development

Institutional Capacity Development

Economic and Development Policy Research

D.Net's governing body approved of Mission 2010 in June, 2006.

**The process for developing Mission 2010:**

**Step1:** Staff Consultation with structured questionnaire and brainstorming meeting for SWOT analysis

**Step2:** Consultation with D.Net's strategic management

**Step 3:** Consultation with the experts and stakeholders at the annual retreat of D.Net held at Cox's Bazar and individual consultation.

**Step 4:** Preparation of a draft of Mission 2010 by the drafting committee based on the inputs from the staff and the stakeholders

**Step 5:** Circulation of the draft among all stakeholders and announcing it at the Anniversary Programme in January, 2006

**Step 6:** Finalisation of the draft at the Annual General Meeting of D.Net in April 2006.

# Research during 2006

Global Handbook on Women Entrepreneurs:
To improve access to finance by women entrepre-
neurs GKP in collaboration with IKED published a
handbook titled "Hand Book on Women owned
SMEs: Challenges and Opportunities in Policy and
Programme".   Dr. Ananya Raihan contributed a
chapter titled "Improving Access to Finance for
Women-led SMEs" in the book.

A research paper was prepared titled "Floating
Exchange Rate Management : How Does it Work for
Bangladesh?". The paper was prepared by Dr.
Ananya Raihan.

A research paper titled "Inward Remittance : The
Policy Issues" was prepared by Dr. Ananya Raihan.

"Fifty Most Important e-Government Services"
Assessment for Bangladesh: D.Net conducted
a research for The World Bank on identifying
top 50 possible e-government services for
Bangladesh from citizens' perspective. The
research aimed at developing a comprehen-
sive list of 50 most important e-Government
services based on citizen's needs and
government's readiness and willingness.
Anir Chowdhury led the research on behalf
of D.Net.

**Pallitathya Help Line**
A Precursor to People's Call Center
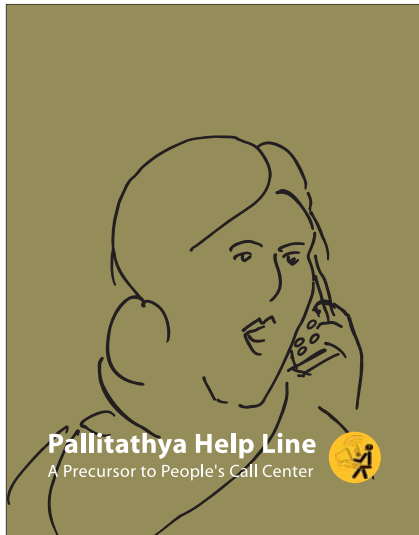
# Events of D.Net during 2005-2006

**Launching ceremony of the Country's First A-Z Medical Directory:** Nobel Peace Prize Winner economist Professor Muhammad Yunus launched the book titled A-Z Medical Directory. This directory was published in collaboration with Health21, a civil society organization working on health. At the launching ceremony more than 200 eminent personalities and representatives from different sectors were present.

**Workshop on ICT and Access to Justice:** D.Net organised the workshop on September 2005. Advocate Sultana Kamal, former advisor of the caretaker government chaired the half-day workshop.

**Submitting policy brief on Bangladesh's Position in the WSIS:** D.Net officially submitted the policy brief titled WSIS Issues of Debate and Possible Position of Bangladeshi Delegation for PrepCom-3 to the government. The paper highlighted the issues of financial mechanisms of post WSIS programmes, particularly that of funding priority for development of locally relevant content, financing for development of regional Internet backbone, ICT infrastructure etc. The paper raised the issues of accountability of ICANN, the global administrator body for the internet, global internet pricing policy, and promotion of open source software and technologies.

**Press Conference on MDGs and ICT: DNet's Achievements:** The key contributions of D.Net were highlighted in this press conference on "Millennium Development Goals and Information and Communication Technologies: D.Net's Achievement" held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity office on September 26, 2005.

**Participating in the Expo of Road to Tunis, Dhaka:**

The "Road to Tunis" was organised by Ministry of Science and ICT, GoB in collaboration with UNDP, Bangladesh on October 23-25, 2005. The best ICT4D initiatives in Bangladesh were showcased here including D.Net's programmes. The exposition received appreciation from the researchers and activists from country and aboard.

**Pre-WSIS Press Conference:** On November 9, 2005 D.Net in association with Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (BFES) briefed the journalists at the National Press Club about the importance of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Phase II which was to be held at Tunis, Tunisia during November 16-18, 2005. Both the organisations presented their ICT4D projects to the journalists which they would present at the WSIS.

**Organising seminar at Khulna and Chittagong University:** Services and privileges of www.bdresearch.org and scope of participation in enriching the website were discussed in this seminar held on June 24, 2006 and participated by teachers and students of these institutions.

**Seminar on Floating Exchange Rate:** The Economic Reporters' Forum organised a seminar titled "Floating Exchange Rate Management: How Does it Work for Bangladesh" on March 23, 2006. Dr. Ananya Raihan presented the key note paper on the occasion.

**Seminar on Inward Remittance:** The leading business magazine 'Business Bangladesh' organised a seminar on Inward Remittance on March 29, 2006 where Dr. Ananya Raihan presented a paper titled "Inward Remittance: The Policy Issues".

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# Events of D.Net during 2005-2006

# Networking for Partnership

## Regional and global events attended by D.Net members

Organising seminar titled "Improving Access to Livelihood Information: Missing Dimension in Poverty Alleviation (Case Study Bangladesh)": The seminar was organized at the GKP Forum of the WSIS summit in Tunis on November 15, 2005 in collaboration with IDRC, Canada. In the seminar the speakers put emphasis on the issues of access to information as a part of access to resources, which are important for addressing the poverty on the whole.

Attending WSIS Summit: A five-member delegation from D.Net attended the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, Tunisia held during November 16-18 2006. D.Net's objectives for joining the summit were showcasing the good practices in Bangladesh, sharing and networking with likeminded organisations and validating approaches for successful implementation.

South-South Exchange Travelling Workshop: The fourth south-south exchange travelling workshop was held during November 28 to December 05, 2005 at Chennai, India hosted by MSSRF, India and GKP, Malaysia. A total of 17 participants from different organisations attended in the workshop from 10 developing countries. Md. Forhad Uddin, Senior Research Associate from D.Net attended the workshop.

Attending the Annual Regional Meeting of One World South Asia: Ferdousi Akhter represented D.Net in the meeting held in India during January 23-14, 2006.

Participating in the workshop on Building a Common Path beyond WSIS: D.Net participated in this international workshop at Sarvodaya Nagarodaya, Sri Lanka during February 23-25, 2006. The workshop was followed by a field visit to Sarvodaya

Telecentre. The workshop emphasised on building collaboration among the participating organizations working on the common ground of ICT4D issues. Mahmud Hasan, Programme Director, D.Net made a presentation on Sharing D.Net's Experience in Research on "Impact of ICT Carried Livelihood Information Delivery on the Rural Community". Many organisations working with ICT4D like ICTA, University of Colombo's School of Computing, TVE Asia Pacific, Young Asia Television, University of Peradeniya and Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) also attended the workshop.

Attending Asian Regional Dialogue on Trade in Services and Sustainable Development: ICTSD and PIDS jointly organised this conference from February 28 to March 1, 2006 at Boracay Island, Philippines. Dr. Ananya Raihan presented a paper titled "Opportunities and Risks in Trade in Services in Bangladesh".

Exposure visit of D.Net's Pallitathya team to India: During March 10-18, 2006, Pallitathya research team visited India to learn from Indian championsin the ICT4D sectors, particularly MSSRF, Rajib Gandhi Veterinary College and Arabindhu Eye Hospital.

Attending CENTAD workshop, India: The Centre for Trade & Development organised two conferences on South Asia: Strategising beyond Hong Kong during April 21-22, 2006 in New Delhi. Dr. Ananya Raihan presented a paper titled "Trade in Services and LDCs: What can South Asian LDCs Gain?"

Lecture at the ADB training programme on SME financing for Asian Transition Economies: Asian Development Bank organised a four-day training programme at Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Ananya Raihan presented a paper titled "E-finance for SMEs".

# Networking for Partnership

## Regional and global events participated by D.Net members

**Aattending the Gender Evaluation Workshop:** D.Net attended the Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop organised by APC, Datamation Foundation and IDRC held on April 24-27, 2006 in India. Mahmud Hasan from D.Net made a presentation on D.Net's activities related to Gender and ICTs.

**Attending Outcome Mapping Workshop:** D.Net attended this workshop organised by GKP during May 5-8, 2006 in Sri Lanka. Dr. Ananya Raihan facilitated planning of South Asia cluster of GKP activities in the workshop.

**Attending International Forum on Cross Sector Partnership:** Dr. Ananya Raihan, Mahmud Hasan and Dr. Shah Md. Ahsan Habib participated in the forum organised by GKP during May 9-10, 2006 in Sri Lanka.

**Launcing Telecentre Times with D.Net on the editorial Board:** On May 09, 2006 at the GKP International Forum held in Colombo, the Telecentre Times, the newspaper of and for telecentres across the globe was launched. The newspaper is now published in English, Spanish, French and Bangla languages.

**Attending GKP Annual Meeting:** D.Net attended the meeting on May 11, 2006 at Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka.

**Attending the Resource Mobilization Workshop:** D.Net team attended the workshop organised by GKP during May 12-13, 2006 in Sri Lanka.

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# D.Net's Future Programmes

A negotiation is going on between D.Net and Microsoft about a project titled "CLICK". More than 5000 underprivileged youth in rural Bangladesh is planned to be trained under this project using the Microsoft Unlimited Potential curriculum. The CLICK will be a hybrid of "Paliitathya Kendra" and " Community Learning centre (CLC)".

D.Net is negotiating with UNESCO Bangladesh to conduct a research on "Review the experiences of Bangladesh and countries in Asia-Pacific region in the use of ICT software in Literacy/Skills Training Programme".

D.Net is going to initiate Mission 2011 (every village an information centre), with participation participation of all stakeholders in Bangladesh and support of international network including telecentre.org .

For the first time in Bangladesh, D.Net in collaboration with BRAC University is going to introdcue a course on Development Informatics in the Masters programme of Development Studies department.

D.Net's Bangladesh Online Research Network and University of Sussex's ELDIS are jointly working on an agreement to promote online research repository through www.bdresearch.org and www.eldis.org.

D.Net is going to start more than 30 Pallitathya Kendras across Bangladesh in partnership with local NGOs and local government institutions with support of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

D.Net in collaboration with PKSF is going to initiate a project to integrate information services with the existing microfinance services. The initial pilot project will be carried out in five MFIs.

D.Net is collaborating with IDRC's PAN and BRAC University for a research project on Bangla localisation and testing the viability of Bangla OCR and other Bangla localisation tools.

In collaboration with TraidCraft D.Net is going to conduct a study on Purchasing Practice in the Readymade Garments Sector of Bangladesh.

D.Net and Transparency International Bangladesh are going to work together for promoting human rights and governance information through TIB's 36 information centres around the country.

D.Net is going to collaborate with Char Livelihood Programme of DFID to initiate the Pallitathya Kendra and Help Line model to address the information need of the Char dwellers.

D.Net is going to work with BRAC-IED and Foundation for Education Research and Innovation for integrating ICT in mainstream education through introducing digital learning toolkits along with formal text book based curriculum.

D.Net along with Sharvodaya, Sri Lanka is going to conduct a joint research on "Socio-anthropological and Economic Impact of ICT carried Livelihood on Rural Community" based on the telecentre experiences of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

# Financial Report

জি, বিশ্বাস এন্ড কোং
চার্টার্ড অ্যাকাউন্টেন্টস্

**G. BISWAS & CO.**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

## AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the annexed Balance Sheet of D. NET DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK, Dhaka for the year ended on 30 June, 2006 along with Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date, with books, vouchers and other relevant papers as were maintained and produced before us by the management and we report that :

i.   We have obtained all the information and explanations which we have required for the purpose of our audit ;

ii.  In our opinion, the annexed Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account have been drawn up in conformity with the law;

iii. Such Balance Sheet exhibits a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the Organization as on 30 June, 2006 according to the best of our information and explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Organization.

Dated , Dhaka
The 11 November 2006

G. BISWAS & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Ramna Bhaban (5th Floor) 45, Bangabandhu Avenue, Dhaka-1000. Phone : Off : 956 80 86, 955 57 27, 956 02 89  Res : 913 88 64

Financial Report

# BALANCE SHEET

As at June 30, 2006

| FUND & LIABILITIES | Notes | 2005-2006 TAKA | 2004-2005 TAKA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fund Account | B-1 | 8,655,277.31 | 5,941,623.80 |
| Provision for Depreciation | B-2 | 1,410,954.60 | 464,875.50 |
| Loan & Advance | B-3 | 301,000.00 | 400,500.00 |
| Outstanding Liabilities | B-4 | 42,587.00 | 274,998.00 |
| Bank Loan | B-5 | 1,100,000.00 | - |
| Internal Project Loan | B-6 | 517,699.00 | 591,291.68 |
| | | **12,027,517.91** | **7,673,288.98** |
| **ASSETS & PROPERTY** | | | |
| Fixed Assets (At Cost) | B-7 | 5,731,418.00 | 1,544,222.00 |
| Advance and Prepayment | B-8 | 461,775.00 | 436,274.00 |
| Current Assets: | | | |
| Bills Receivable | B-9 | 347,610.00 | - |
| Cash and Bank Balance | B-10 | 5,486,714.91 | 5,692,792.98 |
| | | **12,027,517.91** | **7,673,288.98** |

Dated, Dhaka
The 11 November 2006

G.BISWAS & CO.
Chartered Accountants

## Financial Report

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS AS ON JUNE 30, 2006

| PARTICULARS | Notes | 2005-2006 TAKA | 2004-2005 TAKA |
|---|---|---:|---:|
| **INCOME:** | | | |
| Foreign Grants/Donation | | 11,915,761.00 | 8,623,761.00 |
| Local Grants/Donation | C-1 | 4,442,928.00 | 2,237,619.00 |
| Donation | | 6,119,359.00 | 907,055.00 |
| Project Income | C-2 | 455,383.00 | 934,197.00 |
| Sales | | 137,810.00 | 11,912.00 |
| Membership subcription | C-3 | 57,000.00 | 7,500.00 |
| Overhead received from project | | | 228,739.00 |
| Levy | | 33,396.00 | 77,500.00 |
| Reimbursement/Expenses refund | C-4 | | 1,379,947.00 |
| Miscellaneous income | C-5 | 1,819,026.00 | 22,750.00 |
| Bank Interest | | 91,753.00 | 24,596.62 |
| Others Income | | 387.00 | |
| | | **26,681,489.00** | **12,846,890.62** |
| **EXPENDITURE:** | | | |
| Salaries/Allowance | C-6 | 5,770,804.00 | 3,635,453.00 |
| Honorarium | | 1,204,809.00 | 406,750.00 |
| Office Rent | C-7 | 986,090.00 | 318,302.00 |
| Stationery | | 592,617.00 | 178,372.00 |
| Printing and Publication | | 1,239,891.00 | 175,067.00 |
| Internet & Communication | C-8 | 1,184,875.00 | 300,764.00 |
| Repair and Maintenance | | 419,196.00 | 144,167.00 |
| Office general exp | C-9 | 268,974.00 | 84,359.00 |
| Local Conveyance | C-10 | 64,698.00 | 50,913.00 |
| International Travel | | 833,296.00 | 223,011.00 |
| Domestic Travel | C-11 | | 1,028,296.00 |
| Utilities | C-12 | 176,396.00 | 44,182.00 |
| Entertainment/ Refreshment | | 94,007.00 | 30,238.00 |
| Seminars, Workshop, Meeting & Cultural function | | 809,566.00 | 211,723.00 |

## Financial Report

| | | | |
|---|---|---:|---:|
| Project Monitoring/Training Expense | | 496,843.00 | 246,314.00 |
| Domain Registration & hosting | | 60,533.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Advertisement | | 203,034.00 | 51,640.00 |
| Staff Training & Development | | 327,664.00 | 148,185.00 |
| Bank Charges and Commission | | 63,816.39 | 15,087.84 |
| Audit fees | | 17,000.00 | 9,000.00 |
| Insurance Premium | | 21,830.00 | 2,011.00 |
| Tax on Salary | | 19,475.00 | 1,650.00 |
| Intangible Asset (Software development) | | | 200,000.00 |
| Centre refurbishment | | | 49,489.00 |
| Fund Transfer | C-13 | 2,789,093.00 | 117,012.25 |
| Miscellaneous (Overhead) | | 155,011.00 | 78,085.00 |
| Fess & Professional charge | | | 37,800.00 |
| Research expenses | | | 3,902,053.00 |
| Sales Expense | | | 4,600.00 |
| Newspaper | | | 5,906.00 |
| Pc collection | | | 108,851.00 |
| Audio Visual Materials | | | 2,500.00 |
| CD Gunijan | | | 255.00 |
| Picnic Expense | | | 26,700.00 |
| Depreciation | | 946,079.10 | 385,600.50 |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure | | 2,713,653.51 | 5,839,792.03 |
| | | **26,681,489.00** | **12,846,890.62** |

## RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCCOUNT AS ON JUNE 30, 2006

| RECEIPTS | Notes | 2005-2006 |
|---|---|---:|
| | | TAKA |
| Opening balance: | | |
| Cash in hand | R-01 | 7,052.00 |
| Cash at bank | R-02 | 5,685,741.21 |
| Foreign Grants/Donation | R-03 | 11,915,761.00 |
| Local Grants/ Donation | R-04 | 4,156,928.00 |
| Donation (DDF) | | 6,119,359.00 |
| Project Income-Surplus in Project | R-05 | 455,383.00 |
| Sales | R-06 | 137,810.00 |
| Membership subcription (D.Net Core) | | 5,000.00 |
| Overhead received from D.Net Abolombon project | | 228,739.00 |
| Levy (D.Net Core) | | 33,396.00 |
| Reimbursement / Expensses refund | R-07 | 1,379,947.00 |
| Miscellaneous income (Award, Retreat - D.Net Core) | | 1,809,416.00 |
| Bank Interest | R-08 | 91,753.00 |
| Salaries/allowances (D.Net Mother account) | | 8,020.00 |
| Realisation of Income (PKSF CBDB -Datasoft) | | 20,000.00 |
| Loan and Advance | R-09 | 2,583,000.00 |
| Loan and Advance (refund - D.Net Core) | | 2,615,214.00 |
| Staff advance (realised) | | 10,000.00 |
| Transfer | R-10 | 4,009,498.00 |
| Others Income | | 387.00 |
| **TOTAL** | | **41,272,404.21** |

Financial Report

Payments:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salaries/Allowances | P-01 | 6,007,842.00 |
| Honorarium | P-02 | 1,204,809.00 |
| Office Rent | P-03 | 943,840.00 |
| Stationery | P-04 | 592,617.00 |
| Printing and Publication | P-05 | 1,239,891.00 |
| Internet & Communication | P-06 | 1,181,080.00 |
| Repair and Maintenance | P-07 | 419,196.00 |
| Office general exp.(D.Net Core) | | 232,429.00 |
| Local Conveyance | P-08 | 62,754.00 |
| International Travel | P-09 | 833,296.00 |
| Domestic Travel | P-10 | 959,836.00 |
| Utilities | P-11 | 159,334.00 |
| Entertainment/Refreshment (D.Net Core) | | 94,007.00 |
| Seminars, Workshop, Meeting & Cultural function | P-12 | 809,566.00 |
| Resource Materials (D.Net Pallitathya) | | 78,906.00 |
| Project Monitoring/Training Expense | P-13 | 496,843.00 |
| Domain Registration & hosting (D.Net Core) | | 60,533.00 |
| Advertisement | P-14 | 203,034.00 |
| Staff Training & Development (D.Net Core) | | 327,664.00 |
| Bank Charges and Commission | P-15 | 63,816.41 |
| Audit fees | P-16 | 17,000.00 |
| Insurance Premium (D.Net Core) | | 21,830.00 |
| Tax on Salary (D.Net Core) | | 19,475.00 |
| Office Equipment | P-17 | 1,077,268.00 |
| Furniture & Fixtures | P-18 | 1,086,030.00 |
| Computer & Peripherals | P-19 | 1,690,905.00 |
| Books | P-20 | 54,087.00 |
| Intangible Assets | P-21 | 200,000.00 |
| Centre refurbishment (AIIRL-RIB) | | 49,489.00 |
| Transfer | P-22 | 6,798,591.00 |
| Miscellaneous (Overhead- D.Net Abolombon) | | 155,011.00 |
| Loan & advance | P-23 | 449,950.00 |
| Loan & advance (Repayment) | P-24 | 4,197,714.00 |
| Fess & Professional charge (D.Net Core) | | 37,800.00 |
| Research expenses | P-25 | 3,902,053.00 |
| Sales (refund- D.Net Core) | | 4,600.00 |
| Bank OD (D.Net Core - Southeast) | | 52,592.68 |
| Closing Balance | | |
| Cash in hand | P-26 | 5,835.00 |
| Cash at Bank | P-27 | 5,480,880.12 |
| | | |
| **TOTAL** | | **41,272,404.21** |

Dated, Dhaka
The 11 November 2006

G.BISWAS & CO.
Chartered Accountants

# D.Net Governing Body
# 2004-2006 and 2006-2008

## Governing Body 2006 – 2008

Dr. Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, Chairman
Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Member
Dr. Debapriya Bhattacyarhya, Member
Mr, Fahim Mashroor, Member
Mr. M. Azmat Khan, Member
Mr. Mahmud Hasan, Member
Mr. Mridul Chowdhury, Member
Dr. Shah M. Ahsan Habib, Member
Mr. Ajoy K. Bose, Member
Dr. Shahnaz Karim, Member
Dr. Ananya Raihan, Member Secretary

## Governing Body 2004 - 2006

Dr. Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, Chairman
Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Member
Dr. Debapriya Bhattacyarhya, Member
Mr. Jahirul Islam, Member
Mr. Fahim Mashroor, Member
M. Azmat Khan, Member
Mahmud Hasan, Member
Mr. Mridul Chowdhury, Member
Mr. Ajoy K. Bose, Member
Dr. Shah M Ahsan Habib, Member
Dr. Ananya Raihan, Member Secretary

www.dnet-bangladesh.org

# List of Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| **ADB** | Asian Development Bank |
| **APC** | Association for Progressive Communication |
| **APCWNSP** | Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme |
| **AWID** | Association for Women's Rights in Development |
| **BCAS** | Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies |
| **BEA** | Bangladesh Economic Association |
| **BEI** | Bangladesh Enterprise Institute |
| **BFES** | Bangladesh Friendship Education Society |
| **BIBM** | Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management |
| **BUP** | Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad |
| **CENTAD** | Centre for Trade and Development |
| **CENWOR** | Centre for Women's Research |
| **CICs** | Community Information Centres |
| **CIDA** | Canadian International Development Agency |
| **CLC** | Community Learning Centre |
| **CLICK** | Community for Learning Information, Communication and Knowledge |
| **CLP** | Computer Learning Programme |
| **D.Net** | Development Research Network |
| **DFID** | Department for the Information Development |
| **GEM** | Gender Evaluation Methodology |
| **GICT** | Gender and Information & Communication Technology |
| **GKP** | Global Knowledge Partnership |
| **GoB** | Government of Bangladesh |
| **ICANN** | Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers |
| **ICT** | Information and Communication Technology |
| **ICT4D** | Information and Communication Technologies for Development |
| **ICTSD** | International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development |
| **IDRC** | International Development Research Centre |
| **IKB** | Information and Knowledge Base |
| **IKED** | International Organisation for Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development |
| **LDC** | Least Developed Country |
| **MDG** | Millennium Development Goal |
| **MSME** | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises |
| **MSSRF** | M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation |
| **NRB** | Non Residence Bangladesh |
| **OCR** | Optical Character Recognizer |
| **PIDS** | Philippine Institute for Development Studies |
| **RIC** | Rural Information Centre |
| **SDC** | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| **SIDA** | Swedish International Development Agency |
| **SME** | Small and Medium Enterprise |
| **UNDP** | United Nations Development Programme |
| **UNESCO** | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| **UPL** | University Press Limited |
| **VAB** | Volunteers Association for Bangladesh |
| **WSIS** | World Summit on the Information Society |

www.dnet-bangladesh.org

**D.Net**